

1683. A letter from the Deputy Associate Director for Compliance, Department of the Interior, transmitting notification of proposed refunds of excess royalty payments in OCS areas, pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1339(b); to the Committee on Resources.

1684. A letter from the Chairperson, National Council on Disability, transmitting the Council's report entitled "Disability Perspectives and Recommendations on Proposals to Reform the Medicaid and Medicare Programs," pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 781(a)(8); jointly, to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

¶146.6 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2491), "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 105 of the concurrent resolution in the budget for fiscal year 1996," disagreed to by the House, agrees to the conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appointed the following Members to be the conferees on the part of the Senate, with instructions:

From the Committee on the Budget for the consideration of all titles: Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. EXON.

From the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry for the consideration of title I: Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DOLE, Mr. HELMS (for consideration of section 1113 and subtitle D), Mr. COCHRAN (except for consideration of sections 1106, 1108, 1113, and subtitle D), Mr. CRAIG (for consideration of sections 1106 and 1108), Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. PRYOR.

From the Committee on Armed Services for the consideration of title II: Mr. THURMOND, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN.

From the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs for the consideration of title III: Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. GRAMM, and Mr. SARBANES.

From the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation for the consideration of title IV: Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. INOUE.

From the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for the consideration of title V: Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. BUMPERS, and Mr. FORD.

From the Committee on Environment and Public Works for the consideration of title VI: Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. REID.

From the Committee on Finance for the consideration of title VII and title XII: Mr. ROTH, Mr. DOLE, and Mr. MOYNIHAN.

From the Committee on Governmental Affairs for the consideration of title VIII (and for consideration of the title of the House bill relating solely to abolishing the Department of Commerce): Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. GLENN, and Mr. PRYOR.

From the Committee on the Judiciary for the consideration of title IX: Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BIDEN.

From the Committee on Labor and Human Resources for the consideration of title X: Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. COATS, Mr. FRIST, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PELL, and Mr. SIMON (for ERISA and other matters).

From the Committee on Veteran Affairs for the consideration of title XI: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 103-322, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, announces the appointment of Gilbert L. Gallegos, of New Mexico, to the National Commission to Support Law Enforcement.

¶146.7 COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT

On motion of Mr. TIAHRT, by unanimous consent, the following committees and their subcommittees were granted permission to sit today during the 5-minute rule: the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on National Security, and the Committee on Resources.

¶146.8 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Tim Sanders, one of his secretaries.

¶146.9 CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

Pursuant to clause 4, rule XIII, The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mrs. MYRICK, directed the Corrections Calendar to be called.

When,

¶146.10 UNNECESSARY MEDICAL DEVICE REPORTING

The Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union was discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2366) to repeal an unnecessary medical device reporting requirement.

When said bill was considered and read twice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mrs. MYRICK, pursuant to clause 4 of rule XIII, recognized Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. BROWN of Ohio, each for 30 minutes.

¶146.11 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BILIRAKIS made a point of order and said:

"Madam Speaker, this harangue that we have had from the other side is certainly not germane to what we are talking about here, and I think it violates the rules of the House."

Mr. BROWN of Ohio was recognized to speak to the point of order and said:

"Madame Speaker, we are talking about Medicare, we are talking about that section. I ran for Congress understanding that on the floor of the House you could talk about issues that affected people's lives and issues that affected the particular legislation you are working on.

"On this side of the aisle I control my 30 minutes. My friend from Florida [Mr. Bilirakis] can talk about what he wants in his 30 minutes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mrs. MYRICK, sustained the point of order, and said:

"The Chair will take this opportunity to read from clause 1 of rule XIV of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

"When any Member desires to speak or deliver any matter to the House, he shall rise and respectfully address himself to 'Mr. Speaker', and, on being recognized, may address the House from any place on the floor or from the Clerk's desk, and shall confine himself to the question under debate."

"With that guidance, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Brown] may proceed."

After further debate,

Mr. BILIRAKIS rose to restate his point of order and said:

"My point of order is to the effect that the debate over there has nothing at all to do with the legislation before us, which is to repeal the unnecessary regulatory burden of the cardiac pacemaker registry imposed by the Social Security Act, period. It is limited to that particular point, that subsection."

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mrs. MYRICK, reiterated the previous ruling on the point of order, and said:

"The Chair finds that the most recent debate maintains the proper nexus to the bill. The gentleman [Mr. Brown] may proceed."

After some further debate,

¶146.12 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. EHRLICH made a point of order and said:

"Call for regular order. Nongermane debate again, Madame Speaker."

Mr. BROWN of Ohio was recognized to speak to the point of order, and said:

"Madam Speaker, it is not my fault that the Speaker was speaking to a bunch of insurance agents who are going to benefit by the passage of this bill and that he said that he wants Medicare to wither on the vine. I did not write his speech, Madam Speaker."

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mrs. MYRICK, responding to the point of order, said:

"Quotations of the Speaker are not out of order, but a nexus needs to be maintained to the context of the bill."

¶146.13 POINT OF ORDER

Mr. EHRLICH made a point of order and said:

"Medicare as a whole is not the proper subject of this debate in the rulings that the Chair has made in the last 10 minutes."

Mr. BROWN of Ohio was recognized to speak to the point of order, and said:

"Madam Speaker, a month ago, Speaker Gingrich speaking about Medicare to a group of insurance executives, most of whom will benefit mightily from the Gingrich Medicare \$270 billion in cuts to give tax breaks for the